

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A suturing device comprising:

a curved needle for advancing a thread along a path,

a first plurality of one-way engaging devices adapted to selectively engage the curved needle,

an arcuate reversing housing concentrically positioned about the curved needle for changing a direction of the one-way engaging devices wherein the arcuate reversing housing also engages the plurality of engaging devices,

an arcuate driving means concentrically positioned within the curved needle wherein the driving means moves along a path and is adapted to pivot the plurality of engaging devices causing the plurality of engaging devices to engage the needle, and

a fixed way means for providing the path for the arcuate driving means.

2. The suturing device of claim 1 wherein the one-way engaging devices are blades having a slot wherein the slot is adapted to engage the needle.

3. The suturing device of claim 1 wherein the fixed way means has a second plurality of pivoting one-way engaging devices for engaging the curved needle, and a second reversing means adapted to change a direction of the second plurality of one-way engaging devices.

4. A method of surgically suturing tissue comprising:

providing a blade with a slot, wherein interior surfaces of the slot are adapted to engage a curved needle,

pivoting a blade so that engagement between the interior surfaces of the slot and the needle occurs,

maintaining the engagement of the blade against the needle with a spring-like force,

driving the bade in a first direction such that the needle is also driven in a first direction,

advancing a first end of the needle out of a housing,

accepting the first end of the needle into the housing, and

coupling a thread to the needle such that the thread is pulled behind the needle as the needle moves out of the housing and back into the housing.